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Mounting a TV in a Rental — Without Big Holes or Losing Your Deposit

The honest renter's guide to a TV setup A sturdy stand, or a few small patchable holes Keep your wall clean and your deposit safe

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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Everything in this guide, with page numbers. Skip to whichever chapter answers your question right now.

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

1 The Whole Plan on One Page

If you read only one page, read this. Here is the whole idea as a short checklist.

You rent, and you want your TV set up nicely without wrecking the wall or losing your deposit. Here is the honest truth up front: a true no-holes wall-mounted TV is mostly a myth. The things that stick on without holes are not made to hold a television.

So your real choices are two. Stand the TV on something sturdy, or put a proper wall mount up with a few small holes you can patch at move-out. Both are perfectly good.

This guide walks you through each one, slowly.

1. Decide: a stand with no wall at all, or a wall mount with a few small holes.
2. If a stand: use the feet it came with, a media console, or a floor-standing TV stand.
3. If a wall mount: find a wooden stud if you can, so the holes are few and safe.
4. Hide the cables with a stick-on raceway — no holes needed for that part.
5. Secure the TV against tipping, especially with children or pets around.
6. If you drilled, keep the little anchors and a bit of spackle for move-out day.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> A few small anchor holes, patched with a dab of spackle, are normal wear in most leases. That is very different from a big hole or a dozen of them. Small and few is the goal.

The rest of this guide takes each choice one page at a time. Take your time. There is no rush, and no wrong pace.

WHAT THIS IS

2 What Renter-Safe TV Mounting Really Means

Renter-safe is a simple idea. It means setting up your television in a way that either leaves the wall untouched, or leaves only the kind of small, easy-to-patch marks a landlord expects from ordinary living. Nothing that needs new wiring. Nothing that leaves a crater. Nothing you cannot quietly fix on the day you hand back the keys.

For a TV, that comes down to two honest paths. The first is a stand: the TV sits on its own feet, on a piece of furniture, or on a floor stand made for the job. The wall stays blank. The second is a wall mount held by a few small screws, ideally into a wooden stud or strong wall anchors. The holes are the size of a pencil, and they patch in minutes.

- What it is not: gluing a heavy TV to the wall with sticky strips.
- What it is: a stand that needs no wall, or a mount with a few tiny holes.
- The rule of thumb: small and few holes are fine; big or many are not.

> **TIP**
>
> If you are nervous about any holes at all, start with a stand. You can always move to a wall mount later once you have talked to your landlord.

THE HONEST TRUTH

3 Why a No-Holes Wall Mount Is Mostly a Myth

You have probably seen adhesive strips and hooks that promise to hang things with no holes at all. They are wonderful for the right job. The trouble is that a television is not the right job. Those strips are rated for light things: picture frames, a small clock, cable clips. A flat-screen TV, even a modest one, weighs far more than any sticky strip is built to hold.

When a strip lets go, it does not let go gently. The TV comes off the wall and hits the floor. That is a broken television, a possible dent in the floor, and a real safety risk if anyone is nearby. No honest installer will tell you to trust a TV to adhesive alone.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> Command-type strips and similar adhesives are not rated for a TV. Do not use them to hold a television on a wall, no matter what a product photo seems to suggest. A falling TV can hurt someone.

So when someone says no-holes wall mount, treat it with friendly suspicion. The honest renter choices are a stand, which needs no wall, or a proper mount with a few small screws. Both keep your TV safe and your deposit intact.

WHY IT MATTERS

4 Your Deposit, Your Walls, and Your Peace of Mind

Why make a fuss about a few holes? Because the wall is not yours, and your deposit is. A lease usually asks you to return the place in good shape, allowing for normal wear. Big holes, patched badly, are the kind of thing a landlord can charge against your deposit. Small holes, patched neatly, usually are not.

There is also the matter of doing it once and doing it right. A TV set up on a wobbly surface, or hung from something that cannot hold it, is a worry every time you walk past. A TV on a sturdy stand or a properly anchored mount is something you stop thinking about. It just works, and it stays where you put it.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Landlords generally expect a few small nail or anchor holes from pictures and shelves. What they do not want is surprise damage they were never told about. Asking first turns a worry into a non-issue.

So this is really about two kinds of peace of mind: knowing your deposit is safe, and knowing your TV is not going anywhere. Both are easy to get with a little planning.

WHO IT'S FOR

5 Who This Guide Is Really For

This guide is for anyone who rents and wants a tidy TV setup without a fight over the wall. That covers a lot of people: someone in a first apartment, a couple downsizing to a condo, a parent moving into a senior apartment, or a family who moves often and is tired of patching walls each time.

- Renters who want the look of a wall-mounted TV but worry about damage.
- Anyone who cannot or does not want to drill into a wall at all.
- Families with young children or pets, where a tipping TV is a real danger.
- People moving into a place where the lease is strict about holes.

You do not need to be handy. You do not need a toolbox full of gadgets. Most of what is in here uses a screwdriver, a level, and patience. Where a step is trickier, I will say so plainly, and there is always someone you can call.

> **TIP**
> If lifting or holding a TV is hard on your own, make this a two-person job. A TV is awkward more than heavy, and a second pair of hands removes most of the risk.

ADHESIVE, HONESTLY

6 What Sticky Strips Can and Cannot Hold

Let us be fair to adhesive strips, because they do have a place in a renter's TV setup. They are excellent for the light jobs around a television, even though they cannot hold the television itself. Knowing the line between the two keeps you safe and keeps your walls clean.

- Good for: holding a cable raceway, small cable clips, and a lightweight soundbar bracket rated for adhesive.
- Good for: a remote holder, a small shelf for a streaming stick, a cord organizer.
- Not for: the television itself, ever.
- Not for: anything where a fall could break the item or hurt someone.

The strips work by gripping a smooth, clean, painted wall. On textured walls, wallpaper, or fresh paint, they grip less well and can pull paint when removed. Press them exactly as the package shows, and give fresh paint plenty of time to cure before trusting any adhesive to it.

> **WATCH OUT**
> Weight ratings on adhesive strips are honest limits, not suggestions. Doubling up strips does not safely double the weight they hold. Stay well under the rating, and never use them for a TV.

THE THREE CHOICES

7 Your Three Real Options, Side by Side

Before the step-by-step pages, here is the whole menu in one place. Every renter TV setup is really one of three choices, or a blend of them. None is wrong. The best one depends on your room, your lease, and how much you mind a few small holes.

- A tabletop setup: the TV on its own feet, sitting on a console or stand. No wall touched.
- A floor-standing or leaning stand: a frame that holds the TV at wall-mount height, no holes.
- A real wall mount: a bracket screwed to the wall with a few small, patchable holes.

Many renters mix these. You might start with the TV on a console, then move to a floor stand for a cleaner look, then finally mount it on the wall once the landlord says yes. Each step is reversible, and nothing you do early on rules out a change later.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> There is no prize for mounting a TV on the wall. A big, clear picture at the right height is the goal. A stand reaches that goal with zero holes, which is why so many renters never drill at all.

TABLETOP STAND

8 The Stand Your TV Already Came With

The simplest renter-safe setup is the one most people overlook: the feet or stand that came in the box with your TV. Almost every television includes a pair of feet or a central pedestal stand. It costs you nothing extra, needs no wall, and takes only a few minutes to attach.

The TV then sits on a piece of furniture you already own or buy for the job: a media console, a long low cabinet, a sturdy dresser, or a proper TV stand. The surface just needs to be solid, level, and wide enough that the feet sit fully on it with room to spare on each side.

- Check the box or a drawer for the feet or pedestal that came with the TV.

- Make sure the furniture is wider than the TV's feet, with margin on both sides.
- Pick a surface that does not wobble when you nudge it.
- Keep the back near an outlet so the power cord reaches without strain.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> If you threw away or lost the feet, the TV maker usually sells replacements, and searching the model number plus 'stand feet' finds them. You do not have to mount the TV just because the feet went missing.

TABLETOP: STEP BY STEP

9 Attaching the Feet and Standing It Up

Attaching TV feet is a gentle job, best done with the TV lying face-down on something soft. Clear a table or the bed, lay down a thick towel or a blanket, and give yourself room. Have the screws the TV came with, and a screwdriver, within reach before you start.

1. Lay a thick towel or blanket on a flat surface to protect the screen.
2. Set the TV face-down gently on the towel, screen against the soft surface.
3. Line up each foot with its screw holes on the back of the TV.
4. Start each screw by hand, then tighten with a screwdriver until snug, not forced.
5. With a helper, lift the TV upright and set it on your console.
6. Check that it sits level and does not rock; adjust the furniture if needed.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> Do not overtighten the screws. Snug is enough. Forcing them can crack the plastic on the back of the TV. If a screw will not catch, stop and check you have the right one.

That is the whole job. No wall, no holes, no worry about your deposit. Many renters stop right here and are perfectly happy with the result.

THE CONSOLE

10 Choosing Furniture to Set It On

If you go the tabletop route, the furniture under the TV matters as much as the TV. A good media console does three things: it holds the weight without sagging, it sits at a comfortable height so you are not craning your neck, and it gives you a shelf or two for a streaming box, a cable modem, or a sound bar.

- Height: aim for the middle of the screen near your eye level when seated.
- Width: wider than the TV, so nothing overhangs and the feet sit fully on top.
- Strength: a solid top that does not bow; check the weight it is rated to hold.
- Storage: open shelves let streaming boxes breathe and keep remotes handy.

You do not need special TV furniture. A sturdy sideboard, a low bookcase laid on its side, or a solid dresser can all work, as long as the top is flat and strong. What you want to avoid is a flimsy, tippy, or too-narrow surface.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> The most comfortable viewing height is lower than most people expect. A TV perched up high looks impressive but gives you a sore neck. Seated eye level with the middle of the screen is the sweet spot.

FLOOR STAND

11 A Floor-Standing or Leaning TV Stand

If you want the clean, floating look of a wall-mounted TV but will not or cannot drill, a floor-standing TV stand is the closest honest answer. It is a frame that stands on the floor, often leaning gently against the wall, and holds the TV up at wall-mount height. The wall stays completely untouched.

These come in a few styles. Some have a slim base that sits flat against the wall. Some are easel-style, leaning back like a picture frame stand. Some include a small shelf for a streaming box or sound bar. All of them hold the TV with the same kind of bracket a wall mount uses, so the TV looks mounted even though nothing is in the wall.

- A flat-base stand: a pole on a wide foot, standing close to the wall.
- A leaning or easel stand: angled back, resting lightly against the wall.
- Many include a shelf for a streaming box, a sound bar, or a game console.
- All of them avoid holes entirely, which is the whole point.

> **TIP**
>
> Check the stand's weight and size range before buying. Each stand lists the TV sizes and weights it fits. Match it to your TV, not the other way around.

FLOOR STAND: STEP BY STEP

12 Assembling a Floor Stand Safely

A floor stand arrives in pieces and goes together with the hardware in the box. It is not hard, but it is worth doing slowly, because this is the thing holding your TV upright. Read the little instruction sheet first so nothing surprises you halfway through.

1. Lay out all the parts and hardware so you can see you have everything.
2. Assemble the base and the upright pole first, tightening every bolt fully.
3. Attach the TV bracket to the back of the TV while it lies face-down on a towel.
4. With a helper, lift the TV and hook or bolt its bracket onto the stand.
5. Tighten the final bolts, then gently test that the TV is firmly held.
6. If the stand leans, set it against the wall so the top rests lightly, not pressing hard.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> A top-heavy stand can tip if bumped. Keep the base pushed back toward the wall, route cords so no one trips, and keep children from pulling on the TV or the pole.

Once it is up and steady, a floor stand gives you the mounted look with none of the wall worry. It also comes apart and moves with you to the next place.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

ROLLING CART

13 A Rolling TV Cart or Mobile Stand

If you like to move the TV between rooms, or you are not sure where it will live long term, a rolling TV cart is worth knowing about. It is a floor stand on locking wheels. You roll it where you want it, lock the wheels, and watch. It is popular in small apartments where one TV serves more than one spot.

A cart holds the TV at a good height, usually has a shelf or two underneath, and never touches the wall. The trade-off is that it takes up a bit of floor and looks more like a piece of equipment than a built-in. For a renter who values flexibility, that is often a fair trade.

- Locking wheels keep it still once you have it placed.
- A lower shelf holds a streaming box, a cable modem, or a game console.
- It moves room to room, which a wall mount never will.
- Push it against a wall and lock the wheels for everyday use.

GOOD TO KNOW

Always lock the wheels before letting go of the TV, and before anyone sits down to watch. An unlocked cart can roll if bumped, especially on a hard floor.

CHOOSING A STAND

14 Matching a Stand to Your TV

Whichever stand you choose, two numbers keep you out of trouble: the size range and the weight limit. Every stand and mount lists the TV sizes it fits, measured corner to corner in inches, and the maximum weight it holds. Your TV's size is on the box and in the manual. Its weight without the feet is listed in the specifications.

- Screen size: measured diagonally, corner to corner, in inches.
- Weight: look for the figure without the stand feet, since the bracket holds the panel.
- VESA pattern: the spacing of the four screw holes on the back of the TV.
- Stay within all three limits, with a little margin to spare.

If your TV sits near the top of a stand's size range, give yourself room by choosing the next size up. A stand straining at its limit is a stand you will worry about. One with margin to spare is one you forget about.

> **TIP**
>
> Keep the TV's manual, or a photo of its specification page on your phone. The size, weight, and VESA numbers live there, and you will want them when buying any stand or mount.

VESA PATTERN

15 The Four Holes on the Back of Your TV

Almost every TV has four screw holes on the back, arranged in a rectangle or square. The spacing of those holes is called the VESA pattern, and it is just two measurements: how far apart the holes are across, and how far apart up and down, in millimeters. A stand or mount lists the VESA patterns it fits.

You do not need to memorize anything. You only need to make sure the mount or stand you buy covers your TV's pattern. Most mounts fit a range of patterns, so matching is usually easy. If you are unsure, measure between the centers of the holes and write down the two numbers.

- Find the four screw holes on the back of the TV.
- Measure across between hole centers, then up and down, in millimeters.
- Match those two numbers to the mount's listed VESA range.
- If the holes are covered by plastic plugs, pop them out gently to find them.

GOOD TO KNOW

If the mount's screws do not reach because the back of the TV is recessed, small spacers usually come in the mount's hardware bag. Use them rather than forcing a short screw.

THE SMALL-HOLE MOUNT

16 When a Few Small Holes Are the Real Answer

Sometimes a stand will not do. The room is tight, the only good spot is a wall, or you simply want the mounted look and your landlord is fine with it. In that case, the honest renter-safe answer is a proper wall mount held by a few small screws. This is not a myth. It is the real thing, done modestly.

The key word is few. A fixed mount for a modest TV may need only four small holes. Each is about the size of a pencil. Patched with a dab of spackle and a touch of paint, they all but vanish. That is a world away from a dozen holes or a cracked wall, and it is the kind of thing most leases treat as normal.

GOOD TO KNOW

Four small anchor holes, neatly patched, are ordinary wear in most leases. The trouble comes from many holes, big holes, or damage the landlord was never told about. Few and small is the whole idea.

The next pages show how to make those few holes count: ideally into a wooden stud, or into strong wall anchors rated for the weight, so the mount is safe and the holes stay few.

FINDING A STUD

17 Why a Wooden Stud Is the Safest Anchor

Behind the flat surface of most walls is a row of vertical wooden beams called studs, spaced evenly apart. Screwing your mount into a stud is the strongest and safest way to hang a TV, because wood holds a screw far better than hollow drywall. It also keeps the number of holes down, since a stud-mounted bracket needs no large anchors.

1. Buy or borrow a stud finder, a small gadget you slide along the wall.
2. Slide it slowly sideways until it beeps or lights up over a stud.
3. Mark the stud's edges with a pencil, then find its center.
4. Check for a second stud about sixteen inches to the side; many are spaced that way.
5. Plan the mount so its screws land in the center of a stud or two.

> **WATCH OUT**
> Avoid drilling where electrical outlets or switches sit, since wires run near them. If you are ever unsure what is behind a wall, stop and ask for help rather than guess.

A stud finder is inexpensive and easy to use. Even if you only hang one TV, it turns a nervous guess into a confident mark, and that is worth a great deal.

DRYWALL ANCHORS

18 How Small the Holes Really Are

Sometimes there is no stud where you need one. The good news is that strong wall anchors, rated for a TV's weight, let you mount safely into hollow drywall with holes that are still small and patchable. The holes are a bit larger than a pencil, but far from the damage people imagine when they picture mounting a TV.

The trick is to use the right anchors and not to cut corners. Heavy-duty anchors spread the TV's weight across the drywall. The mount usually comes with hardware, but for drywall it is often worth buying anchors rated for more than your TV weighs, so there is margin to spare.

- Use anchors rated clearly above your TV's weight, for a safe margin.
- Follow the anchor's own instructions for the drill bit size and the hole depth.
- Spread the mount's screws out, so the load is shared across several anchors.
- Keep the leftover anchors and the box; the ratings help at move-out and later.

WATCH OUT

Do not hang a TV on cheap, lightweight anchors or a single screw in bare drywall. That is how a TV ends up on the floor. Anchors rated for the weight are not the place to save a little money.

WALL MOUNT: STEP BY STEP

19 Hanging the Mount With a Few Holes

With your spot chosen and your anchors or studs found, the actual mounting is methodical. Take it slowly, measure twice, and have a helper for the lift. A level is your best friend here, because a TV that hangs even slightly crooked is a thing you will never stop noticing.

1. Hold the wall plate where you want it and use a level to get it straight.
2. Mark each screw hole with a pencil through the plate's holes.
3. Drill the marked holes to the size your anchors or screws need.
4. Fix the wall plate to the studs or anchors and tighten fully.
5. Attach the bracket arms to the back of the TV with the right screws.
6. With a helper, lift the TV and hook its bracket onto the wall plate, then secure it.

TIP

Before you drill, live with a paper or cardboard cut-out taped where the TV will go for a day. It is the cheapest way to catch a too-high or off-center mount before any holes exist.

Once it is up and level, step back and enjoy it. A properly mounted TV, with its few small holes, is as solid and safe as any setup there is.

MOUNT TYPES

20 Fixed, Tilting, and Full-Motion Mounts

If you do go the wall-mount route, there are three common styles, and the choice affects how many holes and how much weight the wall takes. For a renter, simpler is usually better, because a simpler mount means fewer parts, less weight pulling on the wall, and often fewer holes.

- Fixed: the TV sits flat and close to the wall, no movement. The fewest holes, the cleanest look.
- Tilting: the TV can angle down a little, useful if it sits higher than eye level.
- Full-motion: arms let the TV swing out and turn, handy but heavier and more demanding on the wall.

A full-motion mount is wonderful in the right spot, but its swinging arms put more strain on the wall and usually need a solid stud, not just anchors. For most renters in most rooms, a fixed or gently tilting mount does everything needed with the least fuss and the least damage.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> The heavier and more adjustable the mount, the more it asks of your wall. If you want the gentlest footprint for your deposit, a simple fixed mount into a stud is hard to beat.

HIDING CABLES

21 Tidy Cords Without a Single Hole

A mounted or stood-up TV looks half-finished if cords dangle down the wall. The good news is that hiding cables is the one part of this whole job where adhesive truly shines. A stick-on cable raceway is a slim channel that presses onto the wall, swallows the cords, and comes off cleanly later. No holes at all.

A raceway is a plastic track with a lid. You peel the backing, press it to the wall in a straight line, tuck the cords inside, and snap the lid shut. Painted to match or left plain, it turns a mess of cords into a single neat line from the TV down to the console or outlet.

- A raceway: a stick-on channel that hides several cords in one tidy run.
- Cable clips: small adhesive clips for a single cord along a baseboard.
- Both press on and peel off, leaving the wall clean when done right.
- Choose a raceway wide enough for all your cords, with a little room to spare.

> **TIP**
>
> Run the raceway straight down to the outlet or console rather than at an angle. A clean vertical line looks intentional; a diagonal one looks like an afterthought.

RACEWAY: STEP BY STEP

22 Putting Up a Cable Raceway

A raceway takes only a few minutes and no tools beyond scissors or a small saw to cut it to length. The main thing is a clean, dry wall and a steady hand to keep the line straight. Wipe the wall first so the adhesive grips well.

1. Measure from just below the TV down to the console or outlet.
2. Cut the raceway to that length with scissors or a small hacksaw.
3. Wipe the wall clean and dry where the raceway will go.
4. Peel the backing, press the raceway to the wall, keeping it vertical with a level.
5. Open the lid, lay the cords inside, and snap the lid closed.
6. Press firmly along the whole length so the adhesive sets.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> On fresh paint, adhesive can pull a little paint when removed. Let new paint cure fully first, and at move-out peel the raceway off slowly and warm, not fast and cold, to protect the wall.

That is the finishing touch. Cords hidden, wall clean, and nothing that will not peel off neatly when you leave.

POWER AND SURGE

23 The Surge Protector Goes on the Floor

Your TV and its boxes need power, and that power should run through a surge protector, which guards against sudden spikes in the electricity. For a renter, the rule is simple: the surge protector sits on the floor or on the console, plugged into the wall outlet. It is not screwed to anything and it leaves no mark.

Resist the urge to mount or fasten the strip to the wall. There is no need. A good surge protector tucks behind the console or stand, out of sight, with the TV and streaming boxes plugged into it and its single cord going to the wall outlet. When you move, you unplug it and take it with you.

- Use a surge protector, not a plain power strip, to guard against spikes.
- Set it on the floor or console; never screw it to the wall.
- Plug the TV and streaming boxes into it, and its one cord into the outlet.
- Keep it where air can reach it, not buried under a pile of cloth or paper.

WATCH OUT

Never run a TV's power through a long, thin extension cord stretched across a room. Place the TV within reach of an outlet, or have an electrician's outlet added only with the landlord's approval.

ASK THE LANDLORD

24 Asking Before You Drill

If your plan involves any holes at all, the single best thing you can do is ask your landlord first, in writing. It costs you nothing, it protects your deposit, and it turns a possible dispute into a clear agreement. Most landlords say yes to a few small holes for a TV, especially when you promise to patch them.

In writing matters. A friendly text or email, kept where you can find it later, is proof of what was agreed. A verbal yes is easy to forget or deny. You are not being difficult by asking for it in writing; you are being the kind of tenant landlords are glad to have.

TIP

Keep it simple and warm. Something like: 'I'd like to mount my TV with a few small screws and patch the holes when I move out. Is that alright with you?' Most landlords appreciate being asked.

Read your lease too. Some spell out exactly what is and is not allowed with walls. Where the lease and the landlord agree, you have nothing to worry about. Where they differ, ask for the answer in writing.

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THE WRITTEN REQUEST

25

What to Put in Your Request

A good written request to your landlord is short, specific, and reassuring. You are not asking permission to remodel. You are asking to do a small, reversible thing and to put it right afterward. Spelling that out makes a yes easy to give.

- What you want to do: mount a TV with a few small screws or anchors.
- Where: the one wall and roughly the spot, so there are no surprises.
- Your promise: to patch and paint the small holes before you move out.
- A question, not a demand: ask whether that is alright and if they have any preference.

If the landlord prefers you not drill at all, you still have the stand and floor-stand options, which need no permission because they touch nothing. So the written request is a win either way: either you get a clear yes to drill, or you cheerfully fall back to a stand.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some landlords will even send a handyman to mount the TV themselves, so the holes are their responsibility. It never hurts to ask whether they would rather handle it.

SAFETY FIRST

26

A TV That Can Fall Is a Real Danger

Whatever setup you choose, the most important thing is that the TV cannot fall on anyone. A television is heavy and hard, and a toppling one has seriously injured children and pets. This is not a scare; it is a plain fact worth a moment of care, and the fix is simple and cheap.

A TV on a stand or console should be strapped so it cannot tip forward. A TV on a floor stand should have its base kept against the wall and its cords routed so no one trips. A wall-mounted TV should be on anchors or studs rated well above its weight. Each of these takes only a few minutes.

- Strap a tabletop TV to the furniture with an anti-tip strap.
- Keep a floor stand's base pushed back and its cords out of the walkway.
- Mount only on studs or anchors rated above the TV's weight.
- Never let children climb on the console or pull on the TV.

WATCH OUT

Most TV tip-overs happen when a child climbs furniture or pulls a cord. An anti-tip strap and tidy cords remove nearly all of that risk in a few minutes of work.

ANTI-TIP STRAPS

27

Strapping a Tabletop TV So It Cannot Tip

An anti-tip strap is a simple, inexpensive safety piece: a short strap that connects the back of the TV to the furniture it sits on, so the TV cannot pitch forward. Many TVs and most tip-over kits include them. For a renter, they attach to the furniture, not the wall, so they leave no mark.

1. Find the small threaded hole on the back of the TV, often marked for a strap.
2. Attach one end of the strap there with the screw provided.
3. Attach the other end to the back of the console or dresser.
4. Tighten the strap so there is little slack but no strain on the TV.
5. Give the TV a very gentle test push to confirm it holds.

> **TIP**
>
> A strap that anchors to the furniture rather than the wall still protects a child, as long as the furniture itself is heavy and stable. For light furniture, choose a heavier console too.

It is a five-minute job that can prevent a terrible accident. If there are any children or pets in the home, treat it as essential, not optional.

KIDS AND PETS

28 Extra Care With Children or Pets Around

Homes with young children or large pets deserve a little extra thought, because they are the most likely to bump, climb, or tug. The good news is that the safest renter setups are also the kindest to a busy household, and a few small habits close the remaining gaps.

- Favor a wall mount or a strapped-down TV over a loose TV on an open stand.
- Keep cords hidden in a raceway so there is nothing for a pet to chew or a child to pull.
- Push floor stands and carts firmly against the wall and lock any wheels.
- Keep climbable furniture away from the TV, so there is no ladder up to it.

If a wall mount is allowed, it is genuinely the safest choice for a home with small children, because the TV is up and out of reach with nothing to climb. Where a mount is not allowed, a well-strapped TV on heavy, low furniture is the next best thing.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Pets count too. A cat can knock a loosely placed TV, and a big dog's tail can catch a cord. The same straps and hidden cords that protect children protect your animals as well.

WOBBLY STAND

29 Troubleshooting a Wobbly Setup

If your TV rocks, leans, or feels unsteady, do not ignore it and do not force it. A wobble almost always has a simple cause, and finding it is far better than living with a nagging worry every time you walk past. Work through the usual suspects one at a time.

- Loose feet: lay the TV down and retighten the stand screws, snug but not forced.
- Uneven furniture: check the console itself is not rocking on an uneven floor.
- A floor stand not fully bolted: go back over every bolt and tighten it.
- A base too far from the wall: ease a leaning stand back so the top rests lightly.

If the TV sits on the very edge of its furniture, slide it back so its weight is centered. A TV whose feet hang near the front edge is far more tippy than one set well back. Small adjustments often cure a wobble completely.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> A persistent wobble on a wall mount is different and more serious. If a mounted TV feels loose, take it down carefully and check the anchors before trusting it again. A loose mount can fail suddenly.

MOUNT WORRIES

30 When a Wall Mount Feels Loose

A wall mount should feel rock solid. If it gives, sags, or the wall around it looks stressed, treat it seriously. It usually means the anchors are not holding, or the screws missed the stud, or the anchors were too light for the weight. None of these fix themselves, and all are worth sorting out at once.

1. Gently support the TV and check whether the wall plate itself moves.
2. If it does, take the TV down carefully, ideally with a helper.
3. Inspect the holes: a stud-backed screw should be tight; a pulled anchor means too little strength.
4. Refit with anchors rated well above the TV's weight, or move to a stud.

5. Rehang only once the plate is completely firm against the wall.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> Never leave a sagging TV hanging and hope it holds. The small effort of taking it down and refitting it properly is far better than a television crashing to the floor unexpectedly.

If any of this feels beyond you, that is exactly the kind of thing to hand to someone with experience. There is no shame in it, and a TV is heavy enough that a second set of trained hands is money well spent.

MOVE-OUT PATCHING

31 Patching Small Holes When You Leave

The whole reason we kept the holes few and small is this moment: patching them so the wall looks as it did. It is an easy, satisfying job, and done well it leaves a landlord with nothing to charge against your deposit. You need only a little spackle, a putty knife, some fine sandpaper, and a dab of matching paint.

1. Remove the mount and any anchors; for anchors, a screwdriver can usually back them out or push them in.
2. Press a small amount of spackle into each hole with a putty knife.
3. Smooth it flush with the wall and let it dry fully.
4. Lightly sand the dried patch until it is flat and even.
5. Touch up with matching paint, feathering the edges so it blends.

> **TIP**
>
> Keep a little of the wall's paint color, or snap a photo of the paint can label when you move in. Matching the paint is what turns a patch from visible to invisible.

Give yourself a day for the spackle to dry before painting. Rushing a wet patch is the one way to make it look worse. Done patiently, your few small holes disappear entirely.

REMOVING ADHESIVE

32 Taking Off Raceways and Strips Cleanly

At move-out you will also want to remove any cable raceways, clips, or light adhesive pieces. Done gently, they come off with no mark. Done in a hurry, they can lift paint. The secret is slow, low, and warm, letting the adhesive release rather than tearing it off.

- Warm the adhesive first with a hair dryer on low to soften its grip.
- Peel slowly, pulling the strip back against itself rather than straight out.
- Keep the angle low and flat to the wall, not pulling away from it.
- If a strip has a stretch-release tab, pull it straight and slow as the maker shows.

If a little adhesive stays behind, a gentle rub with a cloth, or a dab of a mild adhesive remover on a rag, lifts it. Test any remover on a hidden spot first so it does not dull the paint. Patience here protects both your deposit and the wall.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Cold adhesive grips hard and pulls paint; warm adhesive lets go. A minute with a hair dryer before you peel is the difference between a clean wall and a touch-up job.

COMMON WORRIES

33 Common Worries, Answered

A few questions come up again and again when renters think about their TV. Here are plain answers to the ones I hear most.

- Can I really mount a TV with no holes? Not safely on a wall; use a stand instead, or a few small screws.
- Will a few anchor holes cost me my deposit? Usually not, if they are small, few, patched, and agreed in writing.
- Is a floor stand sturdy enough? Yes, within its size and weight range, especially kept against the wall.
- Do adhesive strips ever hold a TV? No. Use them for cables and light items only.

GOOD TO KNOW

There is no wrong choice here. A TV on a good stand is every bit as valid as one on the wall. The best setup is the one you feel safe and happy with.

If a worry is holding you back, that is normal. The answer is almost always simpler than the fear, and you can always talk it through with someone before you lift a finger.

MOVING AGAIN

34 Taking It All With You Next Time

One quiet benefit of the renter-safe approach is that everything comes with you. A stand unbolts and packs flat. A floor stand or cart rolls out the door. Even a wall mount unscrews, and the TV's own feet go back on for the move. You are never leaving money stuck to someone else's wall.

- Keep the TV's original feet and screws in a labeled bag for moving day.
- Keep each stand or mount's hardware and instruction sheet together.
- Save leftover anchors and their weight rating with the mount.
- Label a small bag 'TV' so it does not vanish in the move.

A little organizing when you set up pays off at move-out and again at the next place. The feet you kept let the TV stand on day one in the new home, before you have figured out the walls there.

TIP

Photograph your setup before you take it down. The pictures remind you how cables ran and which screw went where, which makes the next setup far faster.

A SIMPLE START

35 If You Only Do Three Things

Maybe the whole guide feels like a lot. That is fine. If you do nothing else, do these three small things, and your TV will be set up safely with your deposit protected.

1. Stand the TV on its own feet on a sturdy, wide piece of furniture.
2. Strap it to that furniture with an anti-tip strap so it cannot fall.
3. Hide the cords in a stick-on raceway that peels off clean later.

That is a complete, safe, renter-friendly setup with not a single hole in the wall. Everything else in this guide, the floor stands and the proper wall mount, makes it fancier. But those three steps alone get you watching tonight with nothing to worry about.

> **TIP**
> Done is better than perfect. A TV safely on a stand today beats a wall mount you keep putting off. Start simple, and upgrade later if you ever want to.

FINISH THE JOB

36

Finish the Job Soon

You now know every honest way to set up a TV in a rental. Pick the one that fits your room and your lease. Stand it on its feet, raise it on a floor stand, or mount it with a few small holes you have agreed to patch. Hide the cords, strap it safe, and you are done.

If any step gives you pause, lifting the TV, finding a stud, choosing the right anchors, or you would simply rather someone did it with you, that is exactly the kind of thing I help neighbors with every week. There is no such thing as a silly question here, and a TV is heavy enough to be worth a second set of experienced hands.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> You do not have to remember all of it. You just have to remember you can call. Friendly, in-home help, and I come to you — (330) 200-8042.

A well-set-up TV is something you stop thinking about. Take the afternoon, do it right, and then settle in and enjoy the show, knowing your wall and your deposit are both safe.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy. It points you straight to what to do for each task.

I want to...	Do this...
Avoid holes entirely	Stand the TV on its own feet, a console, or a floor stand
Get the mounted look, no holes	Use a floor-standing or leaning TV stand against the wall
Mount on the wall safely	Use a stud or anchors rated above the TV's weight; a few small holes
Know the adhesive truth	Sticky strips hold cables and light items only — never a TV
Hide the cords	Press on a stick-on cable raceway; it peels off clean later
Keep it from tipping	Add an anti-tip strap and keep the base against the wall
Protect your deposit	Ask the landlord in writing; patch small holes with spackle at move-out
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Three Honest Choices

A renter has three real ways to set up a TV. Pick the one that fits.

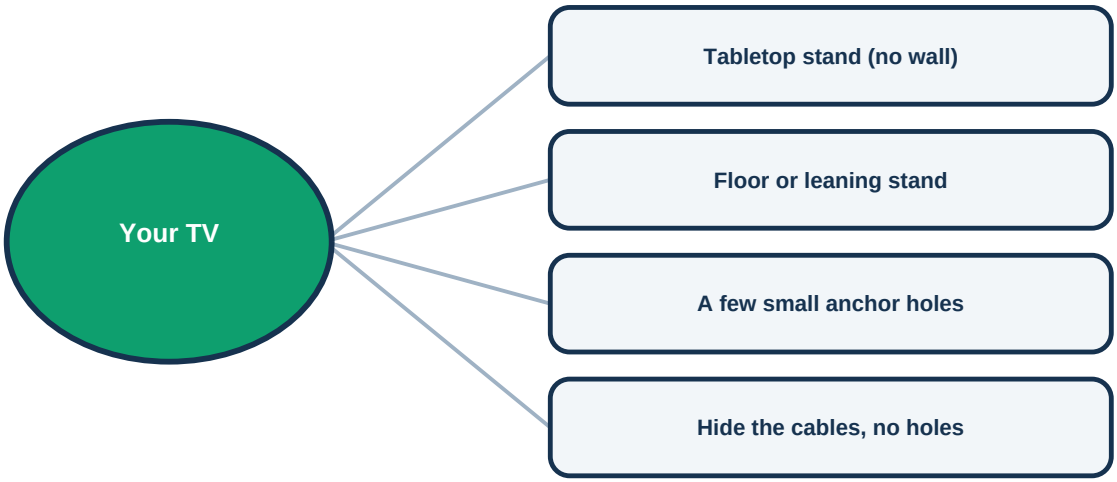


Illustration — a schematic. Set-up screens differ; each takes only a few minutes.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

From Box to Watching

Work one box at a time — there is no rush and no wrong pace.



Illustration — a schematic. The order is a suggestion; do one box at a time.

A schematic of the plan — company steps vary; the order does not have to.

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

Call or text (330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com

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